

Destroying Relationship Destroyers

1 Corinthians 7 ¹²⁻¹⁴ For the rest of you who are in mixed marriages—Christian married to non-Christian—we have no explicit command from the Master. So this is what you must do. If you are a man with a wife who is not a believer but who still wants to live with you, hold on to her. If you are a woman with a husband who is not a believer but he wants to live with you, hold on to him. The unbelieving husband shares to an extent in the holiness of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is likewise touched by the holiness of her husband. Otherwise, your children would be left out; as it is, they also are included in the spiritual purposes of God.

¹⁷ And don't be wishing you were someplace else or with someone else. Where you are right now is God's place for you. Live and obey and love and believe right there. God, not your marital status, defines your life. Don't think I'm being harder on you than on the others. I give this same counsel in all the churches.

Romans 12:18, If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Here's what marriage WON'T solve.

- a) Loneliness
- b) Sexual Temptations
- c) Satisfying one's Deep emotional needs
- d) Elimination of life's difficulties.

If a relationship is what you desire, look to **First establish good healthy biblical friendships.**

Prov.17: 17 says, "A friend loves at all times." **Prov.18: 24** says, "There is a friend that sticks closer than a brother." **Prov.27: 6** says, "When a friend rebukes you, that rebuke can be trusted."

Prov.27: 9 says, “The pleasantness of having a friend springs from his earnest counsel.” **Prov.27: 10** says, “Do not forsake your friend.”

Jeremiah 17:7-8 - “But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

Ephesians 5 –”Wives, submit to your husbands,” and “Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church.”

"Love is never tired of waiting." **1 Corinthians 13:4**

Submission means the ‘three R’s

1. **Receive** direction: **Deuteronomy 5:33** “Follow all the directions the Lord has given you. Then life will go well for you.”
2. **Respond** to him with a supportive attitude - **Heb.10: 24** says, “Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”
3. Show **Respect** to him at all times. **Ephesians 5:33** - However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Men: Loving your wife like Christ loved the church.

Jesus said that the storms of life have no power to destroy your house when you were a doer of the Word. **Luke 6:46-49**.

2 Corinthians 2:10 – 11. If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And when I have forgiven – if there was anything to forgive – I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us, for we are not unaware of his schemes.

4 destroyers to relationships, that we need to be careful of, so we are **NOT outwitted by Satan?**

The First Destroyer - **CRITICISM**

Proverbs 15:4 says; a gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

Proverbs 15:1 says; a soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. Don't be so quick to speak and offer an opinion.

Gal 5:15 - If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. Another warning given to us in Scripture to watch out, as our mouth is a very dangerous weapon.

The Second Destroyer - **CONTEMPT**

Contempt is a secondary emotion and is a mix of the primary emotions disgust and anger. The word originated from the Latin word *contemptus* meaning "scorn."

1 Peter 1:22, it says now that you've purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another **deeply from the heart**.

The Third Destroyer - **DEFENSIVENESS**

Ephesians 4:29 - Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Exodus 14:14 - ¹⁴The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

The Fourth Destroyer - **STONEWALLING**

1 Peter 3:7 - Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

Proverbs 21:23 - Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.

Proverbs 12:18 - There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Psalm 34:13 - Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

Don't Ignore these 4 Destroyers

Destroy these 4 destroyers in your relationship before they destroy you!

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 - Love is absolutely essential; one is nothing without it!

Hebrews: 12-15 says, See to it that no one misses the grace of GOD and that no Bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Let's look at 4 ways to break negative traditions in your home

First, identify the negative family traditions. “You sound just like your father [or mother]!” Pray that God will help you to remember the negative as well as the positive patterns.

Second, refocus. Make a list of how you would like your family members to remember you. Ask the Holy Spirit to make you aware of them as you walk through each day. **If the past remains unresolved it becomes the present**

Third, take responsibility for your choices without blaming. **Romans 12:19** - Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.

Fourth, seek a positive role model. **1 Kings 22:5** and **2 Chronicles 18:4** - But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, “First seek the counsel of the Lord.” Find a person who can show you what a healthy, Christian family looks like.

Acts 5:29 -29 Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings!

You don't have to do it alone. The life of Jesus flows through us to enable us to do God's will, **John 15:4-5**. The enemy is trying to get us **selfishly** (or Self-**FLESH**-ly), focus everything on us..

This is not of God, nor is this what God wants us to be doing to ourselves. **Ephesians 6:14-16** - Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.